

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARTHUR HUMMEL, JR.

FOLLOWING REPEAT PEKING 1552 ACTION SECSTATE INFO HONG KONG

TOKYO 09 AUG 1976

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 1552

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, CH

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE SITUATION UPDATE, AUGUST 9

REF: PEKING 1538

1. PEKING EXPERIENCED MILD TRMORS AT ABOUT 1855 AUGUST 8 AND 0645 AUGUST 9 (LOCAL TIME). ACCORDING TO JAPANESE EMB MATSUSHIRO SEISMOLOGICAL STATION MEASURED LATTER QUAKE AT JUST UNDER 5 ON RICHTER SCALE AT EPICENTER. JAPANESE ALSO ADVISE THAT CONTRARY TO THEIR EARLIER REPORT (REFTEL), THE SAME STATION DETECTED FOUR TREMORS AUGUST 2-3. INTENSITY OF ALL RECENT SHOCKS, HOWEVER, REMAINS LOW WHEN COMPARED WITH INITIAL SHOCK JULY 28.

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2. HEAVY RAINSTORM HERE AUGUST 7 LED TO SOME STRENGTHENING OF OUTDOOR SHELTERS YESTERDAY. SOME INFORMAL MOVEMENT BACK INDOORS APPEARS TO BE CONTINUING, BUT USLO QUERY TO MFA AUGUST 9 ELICITED REPLY THAT ALTHOUGH INSPECTIONS OF DIPLOMATIC APARTMENTS ARE GOING ON, RESIDENTS ARE NOT ENCOURAGED TO MOVE BACK IN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. (USLO EMPLOYEES CONTINUE TO BUNK IN RESIDENCE AND OFFICE BUILDING.)

3. A NUMBER OF FOREIGN PATIENTS AT THE CAPITAL HOSPITAL HAVE BEEN MOVED TO TENTS IN THE FORBIDDEN CITY AREA. THIS HAPPENED AUGUST 7; REPORTEDLY AUTHORITIES HAD JUST DISCOVERED STRUCTURAL WEAKNESSES IN THE HOSPITAL BUILDING.

4. FOREIGNERS' MORALE RECEIVED A BOOST WITH THE REOPENING ON AUGUST 8 OF THE INTERNATIONAL CLUB SWIMMING POOL. THE POOL HAD BEEN CLOSED SOON AFTER THE JULY 28 EARTHQUAKE. FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA MADE A BRIEF VERY INFORMAL VISIT AT MID-DAY AUGUST 8 TO THE CANVAS-ROOFED TEMPORARY RESTURANT AT POOLSIDE. (HE EXCHANGED GREETINGS WITH A USLO OFFICER WHO HAPPENED TO BE LEAVING THE RESTAURANT AREA AT THE SAME TIME AS HE.)

5. RELATED INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENTS BEING REPORTED SEPTEL. GATES UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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